

Dear Sirs,

I urge you not to further relax rules restricting media ownership. The public interest is not served by allowing the control of information to be in the hands of a few powerful corporations. Ownership restrictions were put in place initially to protect the public and to ensure that a diversity of information was available to the people. Removing these restrictions benefits only a handful of billionaires and corporations and has the potential to turn our democracy into a sham. Those who control information will have the power to influence public opinion on every issue that is brought before the people.

I have heard the argument that the rules are old and do not have relevance today. I disagree strongly. Media has changed, but the idea that the media should serve the public interest is timeless. Releasing ownership restrictions simply does not serve the public interest.

I respectfully suggest you listen to the words of caution being spoken by the people on this issue. Over one hundred U.S. Congressmen have spoken out against these rule changes. Over 500,000 people have signed petitions requesting a delay in the vote. Two of the F.C.C. commissioners have also urged caution. At the very least, a public airing of the proposed rule changes is needed so we can evaluate their potential benefits and any possible damage they may cause.

Delay the June 2nd vote. Allow the American people to speak on this issue. The media lobby has certainly had their say. This debate should be brought out in the public view and the people should be allowed to decide what is best for the public interest.

Respectfully,

Karl J. Slifer